

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 JUSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EB-11 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

H-03 PRS-01 PA-03 RSR-01 /105 W

----- 102069

O R 311849Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2228

INFO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

COMDT COAST GUARD

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR

SUBJECT: FRI

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: FROWICK-MAGEE TELCON 7/31/73

1. ON JULY 31, QUAI SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR CURIEN CALLED IN EMBOFF TO PROVIDE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON JULY 17 FRENCH INTERDICTION OF AMERICAN-OWNED YACHT FRI NEAR FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING ZONE IN PACIFIC.

2. JULY 17

0700 FRENCH VESSEL DUNKERQUISE APPROACHED YACHT FRI AT A POINT APPROXIMATELY 28 MILES FROM MURUROA. SECOND-IN-COMMAND OF DUNKERQUISE INDICATED TO FRI WHICH HE APPROACHED BY DINGHY
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THAT HE WISHED TO LEAVE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: "STATEMENT FROM

ADMIRALCOMMANDING CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE PACIFIC TO THE SKIPPER OF THE FRI: 'I ASK YOU TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE SECURITY ZONE OF MURUROA AS DEFINED BY AVURNAV NO. 4.'" THE DUNKERQUISE OFFICER LEFT THE FRI TEXT OF AVURNAV NO. 4. DAVID MOODIE SKIPPER OF THE FRI, ASKED TO MAKE A WRITTEN DECLARATION TO THE FRENCH ADMIRAL, BUT SAID IT WAS NOT YET READY. THEREUPON, FRENCH NAVAL OFFICER RETURNED TO DUNKERQUISE. 9:30. DUNKERQUISE CREWMEN RETURNED TO FRI TO PICK UP MOODIE'S DECLARATION AND LEFT FRI CREW "TO REFLECT ON FRENCH ADMIRAL'S MESSAGE."

1353. A SECOND FRENCH VESSEL, THE DOUDART DE LAGREE, APPROACHED THE FRI WITH THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE: "STATEMENT FROM ADMIRAL COMMANDING CENTER OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE PACIFIC TO THE SKIPPER OF THE FRI: 'YOU HAVE NOT LEFT THE SECURITY ZONE OF MURUROA. IN ORDER TO ENSURE YOUR SECURITY, I AM HAVING YOU TAKEN IN TOW.'"

1410. TENSAILORS DISPATCHED FROM DOUDART DE LAGREE TO BOARD THE FRI IN ORDER TO BEGIN TOWING OPERATIONS BY THE VESSEL HIPPOPOTAME.

1430. SKIPPER MOODIE CUT THE TOWLINE AND SOME OF HIS CREW TOSSED OVERBOARD VARIOUS FRENCH EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR TOWING OPERATION.

1500. FRENCH SAILORS RESUMED EFFORT TO BEGIN TOWING OPERATION.

1519. MOODIE AND ANOTHER MEMBER OF HIS CREW DIVED INTO THE SEA.

1535. FRENCH SAILORS RETRIEVE MOODIE AND FELLOW CREW MEMBER FROM THE WATER. FRI CREW MEMBERS THEN PLACED ABOARD DOUDART DE LAGREE IN STATEROOM OF TAHITI GOVERNOR PIERRE ANGELI. FRI CREW MEMBERS GIVEN DRY CLOTHING.

1600. FRENCH VESSELS BEGIN TO TOW FRI TO MURUROA, THE CLOSEST PORT.

2330. FRI ARRIVES AT MURUROA AND IS MOORED AT QUAI DE GRASSE.

2355. FRI CREWMEMBERS DISEMBARK AT MURUROA AND ARE GIVEN QUARTERS FOR OVERNIGHT STAY.

3. JULY 18.

DURING MORNING, FRI CREW MEMBERS PERMITTED TO PICK UP WHATEVER BELONGINGS THEY WISHED FROM THEIR YACHT. FRENCH OFFICERS ASKED SKIPPER MOODIE TO SIGN "INVENTORY" ON PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE FRI. MOODIE REFUSED TO DO SO. FRENCH THEN FLEW MOODIE AND FRI CREW MEMBERS TO ISLAND OF HAO. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. CURIEN EMPHASIZED THAT CONSISTENT INTENTION OF GOF HAS BEEN TO RETURN MOODIE'S BOAT TO HIM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EMBOFF NOTED PRESS REPORTS THAT TAHITI GOVERNOR ANGELI HAS INDICATED MOODIE AND CREW HENCEFORTH FREE TO RETURN TO FRI. EMBOFF ASKED WHETHER FRI WOULD BE STOPPED AGAIN IF CREW ATTEMPTED TO PENETRATE SECURITY ZONE ONCE MORE. CURIEN STRESSED THAT QUAI HAS NOT RECEIVED REPORT FROM GOVERNOR

ANGELI, THUS CANNOT BE SURE WHAT HE HAS PROMISED.

5. CURIEN THEN READ EXTENSIVELY FROM LETTER WRITTEN BY DAVID MOODIE TO FRENCH ADMIRAL. EMBOFF NOTED LETTER WAS WRITTEN ON STATIONERY FROM FRENCH MILITARY INSTALLATION AT HAO. MOODIE ASKED THAT FRENCH NAVY ENDEAVOR TO MAKE REPAIRS TO FRI. MOODIE STATED HIS YACHT WAS OVER 60 YEARS OLD, THUS IT REQUIRED VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION. MOODIE WROTE "I AM NOT PROUD OF" THE CONDITION OF THE FRI AT TIME OF ITS INTERDICTION. HE NOTED HIS CREW HAD BEEN AT SEA FOR EXTENDED PERIOD, UNABLE TO MAKE PORT CALL TO EFFECT NECESSARY REPAIRS. MOODIE COMPLAINED THAT FRENCH HAD EVIDENTLY PUT "PLASTIC" COVER OVER THE FRI. HE SAID HIS WOODEN YACHT NEEDED CONSTANT CIRCULATION OF AIR OVER IT. HE ALSO CALLED ATTENTION TO WORK REQUIRED ON A DIESEL ENGINE. CURIEN CITED THIS LETTER AS EVIDENCE THAT FRI WAS NOT IN VERY GOOD CONDITION PRIOR TO ITS TOWING BY THE FRENCH.

6. SUMMING UP, CURIEN SAID HE THOUGHT THIS REPORT REFLECTED DESIRE OF FRENCH TO ENSURE "GOOD HANDLING" OF BOTH CREW MEMBERS AND THE FRI ITSELF. HE SAID QUAI D'ORSAY HAD SOUGHT TO GIVE EMBASSY UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON THIS MATTER AS SOON AS SUCH INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO QUAI ITSELF. EMBOFF THANKED CURIEN FOR THIS REPORT, WHICH HE NOTED USG HAD BEEN SEEKING FOR SEVERAL DAYS. EMBOFF EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR COOPERATION OF QUAI IN PROVIDING INFORMATION TO EMBASSY AS IT BECAME AVAILABLE.

IRWIN

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